

## Gonococcal infection of the penis

TO THE EDITOR, *British Journal of Venereal Diseases*

SIR—The occurrence of three unusual cases of gonococcal infection of the penis in Ward 34, Newcastle General Hospital, within the last year prompted me to review the British literature relating to this subject (Bernfeld, 1961; Haim and Merzbach, 1970; Johnston and Thin, 1973; Sowmini, Vijayalakshmi, Chellamuthiah, and Sundaram, 1973) and to make a retrospective study of the clinical records in this department. Since Bernfeld's extensive survey in 1961 only two other cases had been noted in Newcastle.

The five Newcastle cases comprise:

- (a) Two cases of gonococcal tysonitis with urethritis.
- (b) One case of gonococcal tysonitis without urethritis.
- (c) One case of gonococcal ulceration of the median raphe without urethritis.
- (d) One case of acute gonococcal infection of a dorsal paraurethral duct without urethritis.

It is felt that these cases should be recorded because of their comparative rarity.

Yours faithfully,

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### References

- BERNFELD, W. K. (1961) *Brit. J. vener. Dis.*, **37**, 210  
HAIM, S., and MERZBACH, D. (1970) *Ibid.*, **46**, 336  
JOHNSTON, H. D., and THIN, R. N. (1973) *Ibid.*, **49**, 467  
SOWMINI, C. N., VIJAYALAKSHMI, K., CHELLAMUTHIAH, C., and SUNDARAM, S. M. (1973) *Ibid.*, **49**, 469

## Book review

**Roxburgh's Common Skin Diseases.** Revised by PETER BORRIE, 14th ed., 1975. Pp. 528, 239 illus. Lewis, London (£6.00)

It is a testimonial to this book from St. Bartholomew's Hospital that fourteen editions have been required. This new edition has been extensively revised and brought up to date by Dr. Peter Borrie.

Each section is concise and clear. Although this is not a reference book it conveys a surprising amount of information in a very readable form. There is a comprehensive 23-page index.

There are some disputable statements and misprints but these are few. Thus, amphotericin is recommended for

the local treatment of candidiasis, but because of the development of strains of *Candida albicans* resistant to amphotericin, this preparation might well be reserved for systemic use only.

The illustrations are good and would have been even better in colour, but no doubt this would have caused a prohibitive price increase.

It is significant of this inflationary era that no price figured on the reviewer's copy. On inquiry in October, 1975, the price was given as £6.00, and at this price the book is good value.

This is an excellent textbook for day-to-day use by students and graduates which should be available in every clinic library.

Eric Dunlop